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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"No, Sir; it is not the intention of the Government. I quite realize it as a very extreme step to stop a conference. It would naturally give an impression to the public that the authorities are siding with one party or another. Government have gone very carefully into this question in the present case, and they think the reasons given by the authorities in this case hold good. I hope there will be no repetition of such a thing again."

Alleged issue of a circular by the District Superintendent of Police, regarding picketing in Chittoor district.

* 576 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor, issued any circular that police should attend every shop where picketing is going on;

(*b*) if not, why did the sub-inspector of police and Circle Inspector and the Excise sub-inspector go on the 12th of July to the Kattamanchi toddy shop even before the picketing began at Chittoor; and

(*c*) whether the hon. the Home Member had prepared and sent any instructions to the district officers in the mufassal in the matter of picketing and in the observing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact; if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Because they received information that the shop was going to be picketed in such a manner as was likely to provoke a breach of the peace.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to clause (*h*) of his question No. 450.

Interference by the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor, in the matter of picketing of toddy shops in Kuppam.

* 577 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in or about August last, the District Superintendent of Police of Chittoor ordered that the number of picketers at toddy shops at Kuppam should not exceed four or five even though there may be any number of approaches to the toddy shops; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Superintendent of Police also issued an order under section 30 (2) of the Indian Police Act that picketing volunteers should not march in the streets of Kuppam in procession?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clause (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 580.